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Dated: 4/5/04 Signature: [Signature]
(Deborah A. Beach)

#2
D. Beach
4-4-04

Docket No.: 21776-00053-US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Koji Kotani et al.

Application No.: 09/673,503

Filed: October 17, 2000

For: DATA COMPRESSING DEVICE AND METHOD,
DATA EXPANDING DEVICE AND METHOD, DATA
COMPRESSING/EXPANDING SYSTEM AND
METHOD, CODE BOOK MAKING METHOD, AND
VECTOR QUANTIZING DEVICE AND METHOD

Confirmation No.: 6775

Art Unit: 2621

Examiner: A. Alavi

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APR - 5 2004

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed March 5, 2004 (Paper No. 6), Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group III, claims 2, 3, 5, 7-8, 34, 40 and 44-49 for continued examination.

In addition, Applicants believe that claims 4, 6, 35-39, 60 and 66-67 should be included in Group III. The reason for these additional claims being classified in Group III is the following.

Claim 5, which is part of the Examiner's original classification for Group III, is dependent on claim 4. Therefore any search of claim 5 is going to require that claim 4 be searched as well.

Application No.: 09/673,503

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Claims 7-8, which are deemed in the Office Action as belonging to Group III, depends from claim 6. Accordingly, claim 6 is, for the forgoing reasons, also believed to be part of Group III.

Claims 35-39 are dependent on claim 34. Accordingly, any allowance of claim 34 would also result in allowance of claims 35-39. Accordingly, claims 35-39 are believed to be part of Group III.

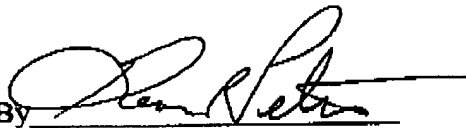
Since claim 61 is identified in Group III, parent claim 60 would also be in Group III, since any search of dependent claim 61 naturally includes subject matter of its parent claim. Additionally, claim 68 depends on claim 34 or claim 40, which are in Group III and accordingly claim 68 is believed to be there as well. Finally, since claim 71 depends on either claim 56 or claim 60, it is believed that it is also part of Group III.

It is therefore requested that the Examiner re-constitute Group III to include these additional claims as well.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21776-00053-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 4/05/04

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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April 5, 2004

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Mr. Takayoshi Kokubun
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17-8, Higashi-Ikebukuro 1-Chome
Tokyo Japan 170-0013
JAPAN

VIA FACSIMILE

(Enclosures w/confirmation copy)

Re: U.S. Patent Application
Title: DATA COMPRESSING DEVICE AND METHOD, DATA EXPANDING DEVICE AND
METHOD, DATA COMPRESSING/EXPANDING SYSTEM AND METHOD, CODE
BOOK MAKING METHOD, AND VECTOR QUANTIZING DEVICE AND METHOD
Appl. Ser. No. 09/673,503, filed October 17, 2000
Inventors: Kotani et al.
Your Ref: F0701P-PCT-US; Our Ref: 21776-00053-US

Dear Mr. Kokubun:

Thank you for your facsimile letter of April 2, 2004, regarding the above-identified patent application. In accordance with your instructions, we have prepared and filed a Response to Restriction Requirement in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. A copy is enclosed with the confirmation copy of this letter.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our debit note is also enclosed with the confirmation copy of this letter.

Sincerely,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

George R. Pettit

Enclosures
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DATE: 4/5/04

PTO IDENTIFIER: Application Number 09/673,503
Patent Number

Inventor: Koji Kotani et al.

MESSAGE TO: US Patent and Trademark Office

FAX NUMBER: (703) 872-9306

FROM: CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
George R. Pettit

PHONE: (202) 331-7111

Attorney Dkt. #: 21776-00053-US

PAGES (Including Cover Sheet): 4

CONTENTS: Response to Restriction Requirement; and
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PTO/SB/97 (12-97)

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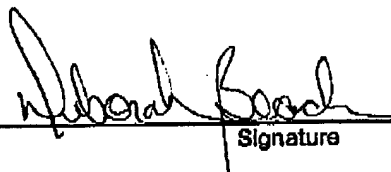
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